

1 Claims

1. A method of promoting tissue repair comprising the step of administering a compound which modulates the function of beta 1 integrin to a tissue in need of repair.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound modulates the metalloproteinase (MMP) balance.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound modulates apoptosis.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the modulation of the apoptotic activity has a resultant modulation in the metalloproteinase (MMP) balance.

5. An assay method for identifying compounds suitable for use in tissue repair, said assay comprising the steps of:

- providing a candidate compound,
- bringing the candidate compound into contact with beta 1 integrin,
- determining the presence or absence of modulation of beta 1 integrin activity by the candidate compound,

1 wherein modulation of beta 1 integrin activity
2 is indicative of utility of that compound in
3 tissue repair.

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5 6. A method of claim 5 wherein modulation of
6 beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
7 monitoring variance in the MMP level.

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9 7. A method of claim 5 or 6 wherein modulation
10 of beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
11 the resulting modulation on apoptosis.

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13 8. A method of any one of the preceding claims
14 wherein the compound modulates the function
15 of beta 1 integrin, wherein modulation
16 includes a change in the function of, or the
17 shedding of beta 1 integrin.

18

19 9. A method of any one of the preceding claims
20 wherein the compound binds the beta 1
21 integrin molecule in the region of amino
22 acid residues 82 to 87 of the sequence of
23 the mature beta 1 integrin molecule.

24

25 10. A method of any one of the preceding claims
26 wherein the compound binds the amino acid
27 sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, TAEKLK.

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- 1 11. A method as claimed in any one of the
2 preceding claims wherein the compound is a
3 synthetic peptide.
- 4
- 5 12. A method as claimed in any one of the
6 preceding claims wherein the compound is an
7 antibody.
- 8
- 9 13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 6
10 to 9 wherein the compound is a humanised or
11 chimaeric antibody.
- 12
- 13 14. Use of a compound which binds to the beta 1
14 integrin in the preparation of a medicament
15 for the treatment of injured tissue.
- 16
- 17 15. Use of a compound according to claim 12,
18 wherein the compound is an antibody.
- 19
- 20 16. Use of a compound according to claim 13,
21 wherein the antibody is the monoclonal
22 antibody produced by the commercial clone
23 JB1a.
- 24
- 25 17. A compound identified by the method of claim
26 5.
- 27
- 28 18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in
29 tissue repair wherein the composition

1 includes as an active ingredient, a compound
2 which modifies the function of beta 1
3 integrin.